

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims, as follows:

~~Claims 1-22 (canceled).~~

DB 23. (new) A flexible mold for food, including confectionery and bread-making, the mold comprising: a flexible tray made of a silicone material and having an outwardly projecting edge, the flexible tray having a stiffening element adjacent the projecting edge adapted to stiffen the projecting edge and improve the handling of the tray by said edge, while retaining flexibility of the tray, and said flexibility together with the dimensions of the stiffening element, being provided for flattening the flexible tray to take food previously disposed within the mold out of the flexible tray.

24. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 23, wherein the stiffening element is embedded within the outwardly projecting edge of the tray.

25. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 23, wherein the edge of the tray is provided with a seat and the stiffening element is disposed within said seat.

26. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 25, wherein the edge has an outer part which overlaps at least a part of the stiffening element which is so held in a place within the seat.

27. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 23, wherein the stiffening element is a frame.

28. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 23, wherein the stiffening element is a frame made of a rigid plastic material applied by pressure to the edge of the tray.

29. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 23, wherein the stiffening element is a rigid plastic frame co-stamped with the silicon edge of the tray.

30. (new) A flexible mold for food, including confectionery and bread-making, the mold comprising a flexible tray made of a silicone material and having an outwardly projecting edge, the tray having stiffening means adapted to stiffen said mold and give the mold the resistance required to carry the weight of food disposed therein without being deformed while keeping its flexibility, said stiffening means consisting of a stiffening element included in said outwardly projecting edge of the tray.

31. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 30, wherein the stiffening element is a frame embedded within the outwardly projecting edge of the tray.

32. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 30, wherein the edge of the tray is provided with a seat and the stiffening element is disposed within said seat.

33. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 32, wherein the stiffening element is a frame.

34. (new) A flexible mold for food, including confectionery and bread-making, the mold comprising a flexible tray made of a silicone material and having an outwardly projecting edge, the edge of the tray is provided with a seat and a stiffening element is disposed within said seat.

35. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 34, wherein the stiffening element is a frame, and the seat is provided at a lower surface of the edge.

36. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 35, wherein the edge has an outer part which overlaps at least a part of the frame which is so held in a place within the seat.

37. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 34, wherein the stiffening element is a rigid plastic frame co-stamped with the silicon edge of the tray.

38. (new) The flexible mold according to claim 34, wherein the seat and the stiffening element have a rectangular cross-section.

39. (new) A flexible mold for food, including confectionery and bread-making, the mold comprising a sheet-like flexible tray made of a silicone material and having a bottom wall and a lateral wall having an outwardly projecting edge provided with a stiffening frame dimensioned for resisting bending of the edge under the strain of food held in the tray, the flexibility of the silicone tray, together with the dimensions of the stiffening frame, being adapted to allow the tray to be deformed flat at the ambient atmosphere by bringing the bottom wall and the projecting edge of the lateral wall towards each other.